

The Southeast News

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 4

FEBRUARY 1964

SEC Board Of Directors Votes Important Actions

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention meeting on January 21 voted approval of a proposed plan for the formation of a United Church Conference in this area and to present it to the annual meeting of the convention on April 25-26 with the recommendation that it be adopted and put into effect on January 1, 1965.

In brief, the plan (which is carried in full in this issue of the News) calls for the Georgia - South Carolina, Alabama-Mississippi and Tennessee-Kentucky associations of the Convention of the South (the Negro Congregational Christian Churches in this area) and the Alabama-Tennessee Region of Evangelical and Reformed Churches to become associations of the Southeast Convention with the understanding that the convention will then become a United Church Conference effective January 1, 1965.

The necessary amendments to the constitution and by-laws of the convention would be presented for action to the 1965 annual meeting. All of the new member churches would be represented at that meeting.

The budget of the convention for 1964 calling for receipts and expenditures of \$42,233.00 was adopted during the course of business.

The directors heard Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr. report that, while the final figures were not available, it already was certain that for the first time in its history the convention did not show an increase in OCWM support for the year. This is cause for concern on the part of all the churches and ministers.

Plans for the annual meeting to be held at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., also were discussed. Dr. Ray Gibbons, director of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church, is to be the keynote speaker.

The committees appointed by Moderator W. Pressley Ingram are carried elsewhere in this issue.

PF Annual Meeting Slated March 14-15 In Atlanta

The 1964 annual meeting of the Pilgrim Fellowship of the Southeast Convention will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 14-15, at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

The theme chosen for the annual sessions is "Out of the Past . . . A Walk Toward the Future." The theme hymn is "Forward Through the Ages."

The program will be designed to present information and explanations to help the young people come to know better the denomination to which they belong and its relationships to other denominations.

Registration will begin at 8:30 on Saturday morning. At 10:00 there will be a period of fellowship singing followed by the official call to order at 10:30 by the president, Miss Beth Burnham.

The keynote address of the two-day sessions will be delivered by Dr. Henri N. Tani, chairman of the Youth Ministry Staff of the Division of Christian Education of the United Church. Dr. Tani's office is in Philadelphia. The address is scheduled for Saturday morning.

Every young people's group of the churches of the convention is urged to be represented both by members of the group and its adult counsellors.

Registration forms will be mailed to the ministers and churches from the Southeast Convention office. These should be returned by March 2 to:

Central Congregational Church
675 Piedmont Ave., N. E.
Atlanta 8, Georgia

Along with the registration form should be the registration fee in the amount of \$5.00 per person. Checks should be made payable to Central Congregational Church.

Overnight entertainment on Saturday night will be provided by the host church. Information concerning hotels and motels also will be provided.

Advance registration by March 2 is \$5.00 per person. After that date and



DR. HENRI N. TANI

at the meeting itself registration will cost \$5.50. It pays to register by March 2!

The meeting will end at 10:30 on Sunday morning, so groups can make their travel plans accordingly. As has been the custom in the past, a banquet will be held Saturday night, followed by a social period for fun and fellowship.

All of the youth groups of the convention are urged to send their membership dues for the year to the treasurer of the Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship:

Mike Cozza
327 Guild Drive
Chattanooga 11, Tenn.

The dues are 50c per member of the local group. The funds are urgently needed at this time to carry on the work of the convention PF.

On Saturday afternoon the regular business session will be held. Workshops will follow under the joint leadership of both young people and adults. The final business session will be held will follow the closing worship service Sunday morning. Then adjournment and installation of officers.

Proposed Agreement For Formation Of United Church Conference

Printed below is the complete text of the proposed agreement to form a United Church Conference in the geographical area now covered by the Southeast Convention. By vote of the board of directors it will be presented to the annual meeting of the convention in April for final action.

The Alabama-Mississippi Conference (10 churches), Georgia-South Carolina Conference (10 churches), and Tennessee-Kentucky Conference (5 churches) make up the Negro Congregational Christian Churches in this area.

The Evangelical and Reformed Churches in Birmingham and Cullman, Alabama, and Belvidere and Nashville, Tennessee (a total of 4) make up the Alabama-Tennessee Region.

By the agreement each of these organizations will apply for membership in the Southeast Convention. If accepted, they will become associations of the convention and acting associations of the United Church.

All of the present associations and conferences of the convention would continue as before. When the United Church Conference is completely formed all of the associations now in existence would enter into negotiations and discussions looking to the formation of new associations along geographical lines. This process would not start until after the annual meeting of the convention in 1965.

The churches in the convention that have not voted to be a part of the United Church would continue their membership just as before. They would have Congregational Christian standing only. Being a part of the new conference would not make them members of the United Church.

If you have questions concerning this plan, please contact Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr.

* * * *

THE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, THE SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia for the general purpose of promoting the interests and general welfare of the congregations and ministers of which it is composed, and

WHEREAS, THE ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE, THE GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE and THE TENNESSEE-KENTUCKY CONFERENCE are conferences of the CONVENTION OF THE

SOUTH OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, INC., organized and existing for the general purpose of promoting the interests and general welfare of the congregations and ministers of which they are composed, and

WHEREAS, THE ALABAMA-TENNESSEE REGION OF EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCHES was organized and exists for the general purpose of promoting the interests and general welfare of the congregations and ministers of which it is composed, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has been formed pursuant to the Basis of Union with Interpretations and is a union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church without break in their respective historic continuities, and

WHEREAS, the SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES the ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI, GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA and TENNESSEE-KENTUCKY CONFERENCES of the CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, and the ALABAMA-TENNESSEE REGION of the SOUTH INDIANA SYNOD OF EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCHES have approved the aforesaid union, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ did on July 4, 1961, adopt a constitution describing the free and voluntary relationships which the local churches, associations, conferences and ministers sustain with the General Synod of the United Church of Christ and with each other and recommended such pattern of relationships and procedures to the local churches, associations, conferences and ministers to the end that they might more effectively accomplish their tasks, and

WHEREAS, under the aforesaid constitution it is contemplated that synods, conferences, and associations of the uniting communions shall reorganize,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained therein, the ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, the GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA CON-

FERENCE OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, the TENNESSEE-KENTUCKY CONFERENCE OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES and the ALABAMA-TENNESSEE REGION OF EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCHES do apply for membership as associations in the SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, INC., and the SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, INC. does agree to receive them upon the following terms and conditions:

CONDITION 1. This action is taken for the express purpose of forming the SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST in accordance with the constitution of the United Church of Christ.

CONDITION 2. The Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches agrees to amend its charter to become the SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE of the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST as soon as possible after the effective date of this agreement.

CONDITION 3. Each of the new associations shall be represented on the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc. by its moderator and one (1) representative-at-large until such time as other provision is made for the composition of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

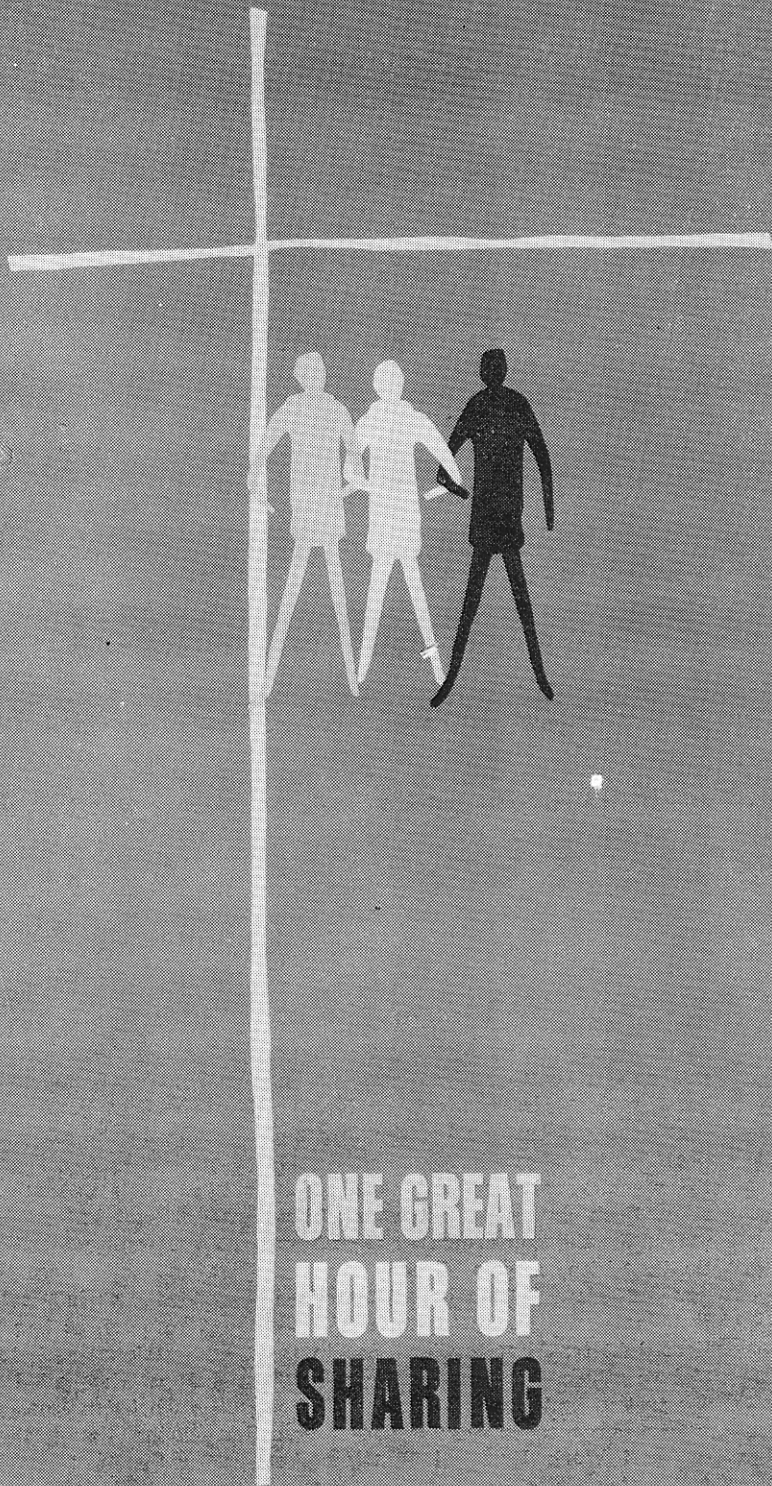
CONDITION 4. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention following the effective date of this agreement a committee representative of the parties to this agreement shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to prepare amendments to the present constitution and by-laws of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc., to be submitted to the next annual meeting of the Southeast Convention.

CONDITION 5. Nothing in the Constitution or By-Laws of this Conference shall destroy or limit the right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the Conference now or at any future time the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any local church in the management of its own affairs.

CONDITION 6. The effective date of this agreement shall be January 1, 1965.

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION

The annual meeting of the Southeast Convention will be held April 25-26, Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.



**ONE GREAT
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SHARING**

Division of World Service

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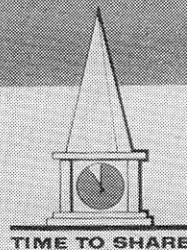
Board for World Ministries

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Superintendent's Corner

For many years the Negro churches of our denomination in the south have been organized in separate bodies from the white churches.

This has long been a matter of concern to our Congregational Christian Churches. In 1956 the General Council called for the organization of conventions and conferences on geographical lines to include all of the churches of the area without respect to race or ethnic background. The Southeast Convention, along with other bodies involved, has been in consultation with the General Council seeking to resolve this problem.

When the United Church of Christ came into being it seemed best to bring about this needed change in organization with the formation of the new United Church Conference in this area.

The board of directors of the convention has now voted to recommend a plan for the formation of the United Church Conference in this area to the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention in April.

The plan will bring together the churches of the Southeast Convention, four Evangelical and Reformed Churches, and twenty-five Negro Congregational Christian Churches.

I am confident the delegates to the Southeast Convention will approve this plan for the formation of the new conference in Christian spirit.

Superintendent's Schedule

February 9 — Union Grove, Haleyville, Alabama

February 16 — Lowell Church, Roanoke, Alabama

February 17-19 — Stewardship Council, Cleveland, Ohio

February 21-23 — Council for Lay Life

First Be Reconciled To Your Brother . . .

Race Relations Sunday Message Of The National Council Of Churches

"So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Matthew 5:23, 24

The words of our Lord underscore an awesome axiom and suggest a priority for Christian faith. The axiom is this: genuine efforts toward reconciliation of differences among men are essential to worship acceptable to God.

The priority is this: the act of worship does not always begin at the altar, but in the midst of conflicts among men — at the scene of every concrete conflict known to men the world over. Here the Christian who would worship God must find his way and take his stand, seeking those things that make for peace both within himself and with his brothers, becoming as best he can, the embodiment of such peace. Only then may he openly and honestly seek the altar of God.

The priority in time and spirit is clear: "First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

We thank God for the worldwide awakening of Christian conscience on the sin of discrimination among men. From every quarter of the globe comes the awareness that the year of our Lord 1964 confronts us with the fact that some of the most disturbing and potentially far-reaching conflicts in the world revolve around racial injustices. Each day new names are being etched in the conscience of Christians: South Africa, Angola, Greenwood, Oxford, Harlem, Chicago, Englewood, Birmingham. Every section of the United States faces tensions due to racial or ethnic differences. The struggle for justice and dignity — equality be-

fore the law, in voting, employment, housing, education and public accommodations — as well as for a community of concern in which men not only may but do live together as brothers, has never been more urgent or widespread than now.

No local church faces this problem alone; the message of the church universal is clear beyond doubt.

The World and National Councils of Churches call upon all Christians to obey as well as to proclaim the judgment of God, who made us one and in whose holy sight all hatred and recrimination are sinful. We are called to repent of such strife in our own fellowship and to call to repentance all men, races and nations now struggling against each other. We are called upon to reject racial or ethnic fears and prejudices, and to recognize them as evil. They separate man from man and man from God. We are called upon to reject racial segregation in all forms because it is the creature of these evil fears.

The duty of issuing this challenge to the conscience of mankind cannot be limited to pulpit utterances; it rests upon the entire church — the laity and ministers alike. Words alone will not do. We must be ready to understand and extend support to those who seek just and effective ways out of the darkness of this problem.

We must continue the struggle now visible in the communions of this land, to remove every trace of segregation from their structure and life. There can be no turning back from this call and commitment. Difficult as the way ahead may seem, every other way is not only sinful, it is suicidal.

The work at hand is clear. It is not our work we seek to do. It is the work of Him who called us into the life of the Christian community. We must seek the things that make for peace among men. In our common life, the values, relationships, institutions, laws and conventions must give clear and convincing witness to our oneness with all men in Christ. The initiative in this rests with those who see and feel the shame of separation and who recognize that the words we would use in worship become the words we must face in judgment — "first be reconciled to your brother."

and Work Regional Meeting, Atlanta

February 24-26 — Regional Leaders Meeting on OCWM, Atlanta

February 28—First CC Church, Knoxville, Tenn.

March 1 — Good Hope Church, Baker, Florida, for ordination of Joseph Brown.

March 2-3 — United Church Rural Issues Committee, Washington, D. C.

People . . . Churches . . . Events . . .



Front row, L. to R. — Rev. A. C. Nelson, pastor, Arnold Wallace, treasurer and deacon, Tom Henderson, trustee. Back row, L. to R.— Mrs. Eva Cantrel, financial secretary, J. D. Cantrel, chairman of board of deacons, Elton Rice, deacon.

Todd Church Burns Mortgage At Service

The year 1963 was one of the best years for Todd Church. We received 18 new members, paid off the building debt, and on the first Sunday in 1964 we burned the mortgage in a ceremony at the altar of the church in which all the officers present took part. Progress was made in every way, and we look forward to make more progress in 1964.

Beginning the first of the year we organized a men's prayer retreat which meets once a week. We began with five men; we have grown in three meetings to seven; and others have promised to join us and take part. At these meetings we receive requests for prayer, for the sick, the sad, and for loved ones and even friends. We have a chain of prayer, everyone taking part, and we remember all the requests for prayer. This retreat has created much interest. We can recommend a prayer retreat to churches desiring a spiritual uplift. This retreat is in addition to the regular mid-week prayer meeting. At the retreat we sometimes have a round table discussion.

We have plans under way to take the census of the area in which our church is located, to be followed by a visitation of prospective members and those not attending any local church.

The church has set several goals for 1964. We hope to do some painting on the interior of church and Sunday

HERE AND THERE

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him to fish and he will eat for the rest of his life . . ." This old proverb explains the basic policy of Church World Service as it serves those in need.

It will always be necessary to "give a man a fish." Natural and man-made disasters occur every year — floods in India, Ghana, and Yugoslavia; famine in Brazil; an avalanche in Peru; homeless refugees and poverty victims in Africa, Hong Kong, Palestine, Korea, and other parts of the globe. Through ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING we have helped meet needs in these critical areas.

But we are also teaching men "to fish" — we are teaching self-help. Church World Service has helped people in all parts of the world acquire skills to help them in providing food, clothing, and shelter.

Twenty-four denominations in the United States cooperate with churches in Africa, Asia, and Europe to make Church World Service possible. You can become a part of this world-wide ministry of love by supporting ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. In most churches the offering will be received on Sunday, March 8, 1964.

* * * *

REV. EMILIE F. PITCOCK

Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock has accepted the position of Minister of Christian Education of Christ's First Presbyterian Church, Hempstead, New York. She will begin her new duties Febru-

school rooms, and some work on the interior of the parsonage. We believe to keep the church active will keep it growing.

Miss Cheryl Breedlove, a member of our church, has not missed a service in over two years. She has missed only one Sunday in three years, and only two Sundays in four years. She also attends the mid-week prayer meeting regularly.

Our men's and women's groups meet together for devotional service once a month and then separate for each group to hold its own business session. Sometimes they adopt the same project and work together to reach the goal. They seem to enjoy this joint devotional service. It has worked well so far.

Southern Union College Notes Progress & Events

To each member of the Southeast Convention the entire staff, faculty, and student body of Southern Union College express the hope that 1964 will be the best year experienced in every way. The interest and support of each church and church member is appreciated and needed.

Registration for the winter quarter at the college closed with 196 students. This number is a slight increase over the winter quarter for the previous year.

The Committee on Spiritual Life and Assembly has announced the chapel programs for the winter quarter. A variety of programs has been planned and several outstanding speakers will address the students.

Christian Emphasis Week was held on the campus February 4-7. Dr. Henry S. Leiper of Leonia, N. J., was the guest speaker. Dr. Leiper is a former missionary to China and was one of the two founders of the World Communion Day observance. He is a former minister and executive of the Missions Council of the Congregational Christian Churches. He is also a world traveler and the author of many books and articles. The college considered itself fortunate to have such an outstanding person to bring new insights to the spiritual emphasis week.

The BISONs, Southern Union College basketball team, are having a good season; the record thus far within the conference is 3-2. The home games are played at the Wadley High School gym. (A gymnasium continues to be a great need at Southern Union College.)

The Southern Union Singers, under the direction of Professor Beaman Griffin and accompanied by Mrs. Ray French, are making plans for their annual Florida tour. They will sing in many of the Congregational churches as well as for men's and women's groups. Dr. Walter A. Graham will accompany the singers on this tour.

The weather has hampered the work on campus renovation. When the many changes on the campus are completed it will be quite an attraction.

ary 16. The church address is 353 Fulton Ave., Hempstead. Miss Pitcock's home address will be: 14 Hilton Place, Hempstead, N. Y.

Ordination Services Held During January

REVEREND E. G. CLARK

A Service of Ordination for Euleus G. Clark was held at the Mt. Zion Congregational Christian Church near Roanoke, Alabama, on Sunday afternoon, January 5.

Mr. Clark, who serves the Bethany CC Church near Roanoke as well as the Mt. Zion Church, was examined for his fitness to receive ordination by an Ecclesiastical Council which was held prior to the service. To the council the candidate presented a statement of his background, religious experience and beliefs.

Rev. George W. Stowe, moderator of the East Alabama Association, presided over the council and ordination. Rev. Olin E. Sheppard, chairman of the Committee on Ministry and Churches, and H. P. Beaird, clerk of the association, also took part.

Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr. delivered the sermon. Others participating included Dean A. R. Van Cleave, Rev. Charles W. Bell, Rev. Roy Chatham, Rev. E. S. Fetner, and Mr. A. C. George.

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REVEREND BILL J. TRAYLOR

The Reverend Bill J. Traylor was ordained into the Christian ministry at services held at the East Tallassee, Alabama, CC Church on Sunday afternoon, January 19.

Mr. Traylor was called to become pastor of the church last summer. He had been serving churches in the Southern Convention in North Carolina and attending Elon College.

Several years ago he was the pastor of the Noon Day CC Church near Wedowee, Alabama, and at the same time completed his work at Southern Union College.

Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, dean of Southern Union College, delivered the sermon. Supt. J. H. Lightbourne Jr. gave the vows of ordination to the candidate and Mrs. G. F. Logan, chairman of the Central Alabama Association committee on the ministry, made the statement to the people.

Also participating were Rev. G. G. Norris, Rev. William Fulmer, and Rev. John Wilder. A reception in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Traylor was held following the service.

United Church President Reports Increase In OCWM

The 2,000,000 — member United Church of Christ raised \$11,083,024 in 1963 for support of home and overseas missions, social action, ministerial concerns and programs for lay men and women, an increase of 2.39 per cent over 1962.

Rev. Dr. Ben Mohr Herbster, New York, president of the church, announced the results of 1963 to 600 delegates attending the third United Church Assembly in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel at Atlantic City, New Jersey, January 26-29. He pointed out that the United Church "has substantially increased its giving to missions every year since its founding" in 1957.

In several years, he said, "notably in 1961 and 1962" the United Church gained "in the face of decreased giving in some other major denominations."

Sixty-seven per cent of the money donated in 1963 went for direct missionary work, Dr. Herbster announced, 36.6 per cent being allocated to the United Church Board for World Ministries and 30.2 per cent to the Board for Homeland Ministries.

Ten per cent of the whole was granted to the denominational pension boards. The balance was divided among six other national agencies: the Executive Council, Stewardship Council, Council for Christian Social Action, Council for Lay Life and Work, Council for Church and Ministry and the Office of Communication.

Dr. Herbster also announced receipt of a "family thank offering" from the 7,000 United Church congregations in 1963 totalling \$211,249. This money also will be distributed to the national instrumentalities, he said.

W. Pressley Ingram, moderator of the Southeast Convention, is a director of the Council for Lay Life and Work and attended the sessions.

Dr. Walter A. Graham, president of The Southern Union College, also was present during the meetings.

Superintendent James H. Lightbourne Jr. was present at the sessions, attending the meetings of the Conference Executives and of the Council for Christian Social Action, of which he is a director. The meeting replaces the old Mid-Winter Meeting of the Congregational Christian Churches.

New Assistant To United Church President Chosen

The Rev. Jack Edward Yates, 37, pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ, Fort Wayne, Indiana, has been named an assistant to the president of the United Church of Christ.

The appointment was announced recently by the Rev. Dr. Ben Mohr Herbster, president of the two million-member denomination, a union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and Congregational Christian Churches.

Mr. Yates will begin his new duties April 1. He will share responsibilities in the president's office with the Rev. Dr. Robert F. R. Peters, assistant to the president since January, 1962. Mr. Yates will render staff services to several general commissions of the church, including those on theology, worship and Christian unity and ecumenical studies (church union affairs), according to Dr. Herbster.

Before being called to St. John's Church in 1960, Mr. Yates served Emmanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church, Royal Oak, Michigan (1952-1960), and Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church, Beech Grove, Indiana (1949-1952).

Mr. Yates is currently chairman of the board of directors of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ, and a director of the United Church Board for World Ministries, overseas missionary arm of the denomination. He is president of Crest Haven Home, Inc., an organization formed to plan housing for the aged in Ft. Wayne.

Mr. Yates was born in Evansville, Indiana, in 1926, the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Yates, who still reside in that city.

He was educated in the Evansville public schools and Evansville College, where he graduated in 1946. In 1949 he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri. He did graduate work at Butler University School of Religion, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Yates was ordained in 1949. He served as moderator of the Michigan-Indiana Synod in 1959.

He and his wife, Bettye Jean Schwiersch, who were married in 1947, have three children, Jane 13 David 11, and Susan 5.